

**03050203-060**  
**(North Fork Edisto River)**

### **General Description**

Watershed 03050203-060 is located in Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties and consists primarily of the *North Fork Edisto River* and its tributaries from Bull Swamp Creek to Caw Caw Swamp. The watershed occupies 53,167 acres of the Upper Coastal Plain region of South Carolina. The predominant soil types consist of an association of the Dothan-Fuquay-Noboco-Johnston series. The erodibility of the soil (K) averages 0.15; the slope of the terrain averages 3%, with a range of 0-6%. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 1.61% urban land, 23.70% agricultural land, 12.66% scrub/shrub land, 0.59% barren land, 42.69% forested land, 18.43% forested wetland (swamp), and 0.34% water.

This section of the North Fork Edisto River incorporates a total of 59.3 stream miles, all classified FW. Tributaries that drain into the river include: Long Branch, Double Branch, Great Branch (Grape Branch, Moss Pond), Limestone Creek (Little Limestone Creek), Mill Branch, and Fourmile Creek. There are numerous recreational ponds in this watershed. As a reach of the North Fork Edisto River, this watershed accepts the drainage of all streams entering the river upstream of the watershed.

### **Water Quality**

<u>Station #</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
E-593	BIO	FW	GREAT BRANCH AT SC 4
E-099	P	FW	NORTH FORK EDISTO RIVER AT S-38-74, NW ORANGEBURG

***North Fork Edisto River (E-099)*** - This stream was Class B until April, 1992. Aquatic life uses are not supported due to occurrences of copper in excess of the aquatic life acute standards, compounded by significant increasing trends in pH and turbidity. This is a blackwater system, characterized by naturally low pH and dissolved oxygen concentrations. Although pH excursions were noted, they were typical of values seen in such systems; however the increasing trend in pH suggests changing conditions in this stream. Significant decreasing trends in five-day biochemical oxygen demand and total phosphorus concentrations suggest improving conditions for these parameters. Recreational uses are partially supported due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions, compounded by a significant increasing trend in fecal coliform bacteria concentration.

***Great Branch (E-593)*** - Aquatic life uses are fully supported based on macroinvertebrate community data.

*A fish consumption advisory has been issued by the Department for mercury and includes the streams within this watershed (see advisory p.31).*

### **Permitted Activities**

#### ***Point Source Contributions***

There are currently no point source dischargers in this watershed.

### **Growth Potential**

There is a low potential for growth in this watershed; however, the existing infrastructure of U.S. Highway 178 out of the City of Orangeburg may encourage some growth.